

THE STAR'S

WORK

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH



Technical history of music (3)

Delights of digital sampling

By Haitham Ibrahim
Special to The Star

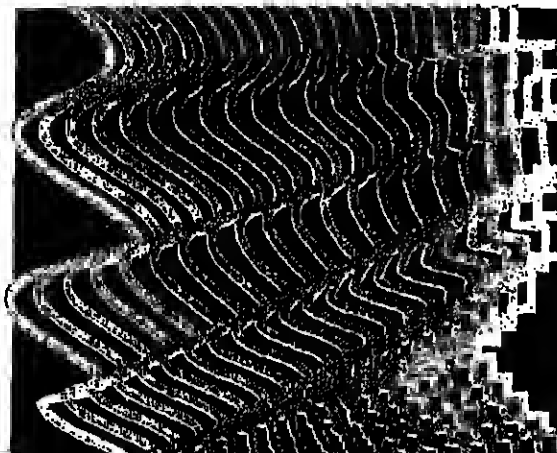
IN THE last two articles, we discussed some basics of MIDI and synthesizers. Though the story is far from complete, we will discuss a 'new' subject called sampling. Sampling has revolutionized the way we conceive music and understand it. It provides today's musicians with unparalleled creativity. As charming as it might be, digital technology used in sampling, is one of the most complicated sciences on the face of the planet. Nevertheless, we will try to cover some basic territory to help you in starting out on your own.

It all started, not too long ago, with the introduction of digital audio. Digital audio is a useful tool to manipulate sound, such as signal processing. It enables you to process an audio signal to give it more character and depth by applying things like reverb (echo) or delay. But the culmination of digital audio came later with the introduction of samplers. As the name suggests, samplers are digital devices that can take 'samples' from a sound. But early samplers were only affordable by the wealthy and rich, aside from being four or five times the price of the 8-bit machines.

The first commercial digital sampler was the Emax from E-mu systems. Like other technological breakthroughs, it was not taken seriously by people in the music industry. But no one thought that sampling would have such lasting power. In fact, samplers today are indispensable tools, used by almost every musician. But how does it all work? More importantly, how can it be used?

If you want to reproduce a certain sound digitally, like a piano sound, you would take a short 'sample' of the piano's sound through a microphone input. If the sampler is 16 bit, expect to be stricken by the sound quality!

The sampler has, at the beginning of its signal path a D/A (digital to analog) converter, which transforms the analog signal (the piano's sound) into a digital one. The signal then goes to an anti-aliasing filter, it smoothens off all of the little ripples in the signal. The flow of the signal is controlled by a master clock, you can imagine it as a guy with a real ac-



curate watch beating a drum, every so many ticks, the drum would be banged and that's how each party involved in the path signal knows when to do its job. So every time a clock signal arrives, a 'person' with a pen would measure the height of the signal, then a lady with a tape measure would measure the height of the signal.

Finally, the signal goes to the A/D which converts it back to analog after it passes through a reconstruction filter.

Now, this pretty sums up sampling, even though the picture is fuzzy. There is still a lot to talk about. May be in coming articles, but for now discover the basics as they will help you in getting the best out of sampling. I think that sampling has not been used effectively in Jordan, not even partially. Buckle up, we still have a long way to go.

The writer is a member of The Project, a Jordanian band.

Swapping Party

RED DISK International (whose strong logo is pictured to the right) held a swapping party last Saturday. The Computer Event of the Year, as they called it involved the hottest software for the PC, Amiga and MSX. Games, demos, utilities and big software packages were available.

Guests and participants were asked to 'bring their latest stuff' and no Lammers were allowed. If you're not educated in 'software swapping' terms, a Lamer is somebody who never exchanges software because he probably doesn't have any new 'stuff' in the first place, but doesn't mind



getting lots of software for free.

The invitation ends with a spooky sentence 'Be Red Or Be Dead'. Come on guys, this could be a good slogan for a Communist party! Why don't you say something like, 'Swap till you drop'?

If you're wondering what happened at this party, don't ask me, I had to decline the invitation. I wonder what I missed?

Compaq reveals fastest laser printer

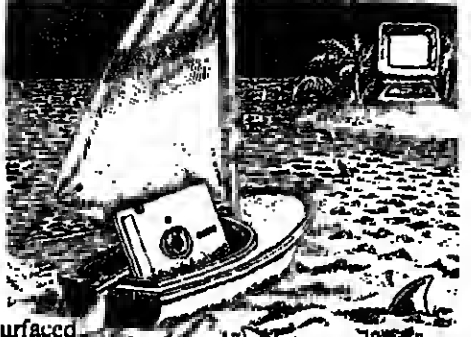
Compaq Computers have announced the release of a new laser printer capable of printing 20 pages a minute. Compaq's Page Mark 20 is priced at \$5499 and is twice as fast as the previously fastest laser in the world, HP's Laser Jet C. Compaq have also released the Page Mark 15 capable of printing 15 pages a minute. Both printers use Postscript.

Compaq have aimed there Page Mark 20 printer at management information networks which include more than 20 users. On the other hand, the Page Mark 15 is ideally suited for Engineering design applications and graphical representation of data.

INTERFACE

New facts on Microsoft ban

A COUPLE of weeks back we discussed the ban by the Arab Boycott Bureau (ABB) against Microsoft Corp., and we said that all the facts must be made available before passing judgement. Since then some very interesting facts have surfaced.



Microsoft is accused of developing Arabic Windows 3.1 in cooperation with an Israeli company. We said then that if this was true, it wouldn't be such a smart move on Microsoft's part because it would risk losing the Arab market. On its part, Microsoft emphatically denied any such connection with any Israeli company.

AlAlamiah, the Kuwaiti-based software company, claims that Microsoft has been in contact with an Israeli company called Kivun Computers Ltd.. It refers to some documents, which included alleged correspondence between the two companies. One such fax, dated June 5 1991, was sent from Microsoft in Redmond, USA, to Kivun Computers Ltd. in Israel. It starts with the following sentence, 'This fax serves as a letter of intent on Microsoft's behalf to work with Kivun Computers Ltd. for the co-development of Arabic and Hebrew Windows, Version 3.1'.

The fax goes on to explain that there are to be two phases of development: Phase I (Systems) in which three Microsoft developers will work for Kivun for three months. Phase II (Applications) in which testing the Windows package will be performed simultaneously in Redmond and Israel. Another fax, dated June 7 1991, is a reply from Kivun to Microsoft requesting it to send the necessary contract and includes plans to finalize the agreement.

If proven authentic, these documents throw a completely different light on the whole case. AlAlamiah believe that these documents provide enough reason to maintain the boycott of Microsoft Arabic Windows 3.1. If true, then the product should be boycotted since it is absolutely unacceptable to distribute a product in Arab countries which was developed in Israel.

However, these are only part of the documents available, and Microsoft claim that new arrangements have been made since.

But the catch is that ABB's bans are not restricted to a certain product by a certain company, but includes all of that company's products. So if ABB slaps a ban against Microsoft, it will not only affect Arabic Windows, but all of Microsoft's products to be released in the Arab world as well.

However, these are only part of the documents available, and it is said that new arrangements have been made since in which Microsoft stopped its dealing with Kivun. Still, we don't know how much truth there is to that.

So we are faced with a tough question. Can we, as users and consumers of Microsoft's products, afford to ban this company from the Arab world? Many users consider the Microsoft ban as bad news for the Arab computing world since it will deprive them from using Windows Arabized products.

Last week Jordan suspended its ban on Microsoft Arabic Windows, until a final decision is made by the ABB in October when it puts the matter to a vote. So Jordanian and Arab users will have until then to buy Microsoft products, unless an exception is made to restrict the ban to Arabic Windows 3.1.

But ban or not, every one agrees that Microsoft software, Arabized and otherwise, will still be smuggled into the country and sold by pirates, since most serious users cannot do without Microsoft products.

AlAlamiah claim that they are capable of providing 'Arab-made' alternatives to Windows, Windows products and even Arabic Dos. This is actually true since Sakhr's Arabization for Windows is definitely a good product, which users can depend on and there are several agreements between AlAlamiah and software manufacturers like Lotus, for example, to develop Arabized products for the Sakhr Windows environment. So, if things come to worst, AlAlamiah might be able to bear the heavy burden of supporting Arabic language users all over the Arab world.

Practically speaking, though, a ban on Microsoft would spell disaster to the Arabization process, which is extremely vital for the Arab World's transition into the information age.

The case isn't over yet. Let's hope that all this confusion would end up serving the Jordanian and Arab computer users rather than causing them harm and frustration. We'll be bringing you the latest on this as news comes in.

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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The Star



JORDAN W E E K

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

Arab Bank sets up new bank in Frankfurt

Arab Bank Chairman Mr Abdul Majeed Shoman announced that the Arab Bank was in the process of setting up a fully licensed, wholly owned subsidiary in Frankfurt, Germany. With a capital of DM 50 million, the new bank will be established after shareholders of the Arab German Bank (UBAB) agreed to an amicable liquidation. The new bank's shareholders, namely the Arab Bank, Commerzbank and UBIC will guarantee UBAB's assets to correspondents and customers, Mr Shoman said.

Muslim-Christian meeting on Jerusalem

A Muslim-Christian confer-

ence will be held in Amman by the end of this year under the title "Jerusalem: Key to Peace". The Star has learned. It will be attended by ministers and personalities from Arab and Muslim countries in addition to distinguished Christian figures from around the world.

Participants will focus their efforts on the need to support an Arab position on the Jerusalem issue in the peace process. They will also coordinate their efforts to highlight Muslim-Christian cooperation to preserve the character and religious monuments of Jerusalem as a city of peace. The participants are expected to praise the Jordanian role in preserving religious shrines in the old city throughout modern history.

A statement at the end of the conference will call for the necessity to observe all international conventions on the city, especially those dealing with the identity

of the Holy City.

Observers from the United Nations are expected to attend the conference.

An organization bearing the name the "Friends of Jerusalem Society" will be founded during the conference.

CBJ rejects-Israeli conditions to reopen banks

Jordan has rejected the conditions set by Israel for the reopening of Jordanian banks in the occupied West Bank, because Israel had demanded an agreement between its central bank and the Central Bank of Jordan, to be negotiated at a face-to-face meeting between their respective heads.

Two banks, the Bank of Jordan and the Arab Bank, had requested that they be allowed to reopen their branches there, which have remained closed since the 1967 war.

Amman rejected Israeli conditions, saying such steps towards normalization of relations with Israel were a subject for the bilateral segment of the peace process.

Jordan "has no objection to the reopening of branches of Jordanian banks on the West Bank, as long as they operate within the rules set forth by the Jordanian committee on economic security, which mandate that they remain under the supervision of the Jordanian Central Bank," Central Bank Governor Mohammed Said Nabulsi told AFP this week.

FOR THE RECORD

By Ahmad Shaker

A senior delegation representing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will visit Amman in October to meet with HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker and senior Jordanian officials to evaluate Jordan's economic adjustment program, and review various areas of joint cooperation between Jordan and the fund. In a related development, a Jordanian financial delegation headed by Minister of Finance Mr Basel Jaradneh will fly to London on 28 September to meet with representatives of the London Club of creditors. This will be the second round of negotiations between Jordan and creditors in two months. Negotiations will focus on a plan to reschedule some of Jordan's commercial debts, due to be paid within the coming two years.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) will resume direct flights between Amman and Chicago, USA, after a hiatus of two years, sources told The Star. Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Authority is considering an offer to permit a private sector company to install and manage about 100 public telephones in the Queen Alia International Airport, through which customers with issued credit cards can make long-distance calls.

A study by the Telecommunications Corp. has revealed that every 100,000 residents have access to 13.7 telephones in Amman, while it is 5.1 in Irbid, 3.5 in Mafrag, 5.9 in Zarqa, 5.6 in Balqa, 7 in Karak, 7.8 in Tafilah and 9.4 in Ma'an. The general average for telephone availability per 100,000 citizens throughout the Kingdom was found to be 9 telephones, expected to rise to 13.9 in the year 2000 and to 15.1 in the year 2010.

Darwazeh Co. manufactures high-quality furniture

Mr Basil Darwazeh, assistant director for the Zahed Darwazeh Co., said that as a result of their success in furniture marketing, the company plans to expand in the local market. The company sells high quality American made fabrics for furniture and curtains.

The company, which was founded ten years ago, is focusing on high quality American-made furniture, and also manufacturing wooden furniture to comparable standards. The company offers its customers a wide range of interior decorative materials such as plants and lights. It specializes in manufacturing classic-style furniture, having acquired a license from Century Inc., a 200-year-old US company and the largest furniture manufacturer in the US. Century Inc. also trains Darwazeh Co. employees, while company representatives attend major international exhibitions so as to view latest technology in the world of furniture.

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By a Star Staff Writer

MINISTER OF Agriculture Dr Fayez Khasawneh has likened the public uproar over the safety of Jordanian agricultural produce to "self-flagellation," and accused the local press of "blowing the whole thing way out of proportion."

In a lengthy and exclusive interview with The Star, Dr Khasawneh refuted allegations that the consumption of local fruit and vegetables represented a threat to consumers because of claims of toxic and bacterial contamination.

Speaking about the uses of plant hormones in Jordan, the minister emphatically denied that the consumption of hormone-treated produce has any effect on human and animal well-being. Although the use of hormones on plants is allowed in Jordan, Dr Khasawneh said it is limited mainly to floriculture — to force certain flowers to bloom — and to specialized fertilization in certain kinds of horticulture such as fruit farming.

As to the use of growth hormones in animals, especially poultry, Dr Khasawneh made it clear that such methods are not permitted in the kingdom. Growth hormones are used to accelerate weight gain by broilers and to reduce feed-turnover ratio. "No sale of such hormones is allowed in Jordan, although registration is the only mechanism available to us to prevent their uses," he said.

The only way the ministry can check the uses of growth hormones, which are known to affect the hormonal balance in humans, is through regular monitoring of the records of poultry farms. "As long as we know that the time interval between hatching and selling of the chicken is around 50 days, we do not have a problem," Dr Khasawneh said. Growth hormones can reduce that interval to up to 35 days.

While Dr Khasawneh is satisfied with the monitoring procedures applied so far, he admits that monitoring alone is not enough to prevent hormone use, although "there is no evidence of misuse" according to the minister.

In his view, locally-reared chickens "are safer to eat than imported ones because there is no way of finding out what imported chickens were fed on."

On the hotly-debated issue of pesticides and their long-term effect on humans, Dr Khasawneh said that his ministry's concern is with conforming the types of pesticides allowed in Jordan with international standards. The danger to humans comes from consuming produce which contain high levels of pesticide residues, which is a result of the misuse of such toxic chemicals. "There is no way to subject each fruit that is going to the market to analysis," he said. "We can't place an overcoat in every farm."

Instead, the ministry relies on the indirect method of random sampling of produce. To deal with the pesticide issue, the ministry follows a four-pronged approach, which starts with the registration of all chemicals permitted into the country. "We allow only those pesticides that have a very short life and which do not get into the food chain," Dr Khasawneh said. Chemicals

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Minister of Agriculture

'Our main concern is the health of Jordanians'



Dr Khasawneh

that have a long life, including chlorinated-hydrocarbon, are banned because they are fat soluble and can accumulate in the food chain.

Monitoring the sale and use of pesticides is the second element of the ministry's approach. But Dr Khasawneh admits that some banned chemicals may reach local farmers through smuggling, which is a big problem. Strict measures are applied by the ministry against farmers caught using illegal pesticides, but Dr Khasawneh said that smuggling prevention is not the responsibility of his ministry.

"The amount of pesticides that are smuggled and used illegally is very small and does not give us cause for alarm," he said, adding

that most smuggled goods come from Lebanon and northern Iraq. In addition to these two measures, the ministry pursues an ex-

tension program to advise farmers on the safest ways to use pesticides. Dr Khasawneh said that he was misquoted by the press on the issue of farmers' intelligent use of pesticides. He was earlier quoted to have said that 95 per cent of Jordanian farmers use pesticides correctly. He said he was commenting on the result of a 1987 study which concluded that 5 percent of Jordan's produce may have high levels of pesticide residues.

Defending the safety of Jordanian produce, Dr Khasawneh pointed to the fourth element of his ministry's approach, which is pesticides residue analysis. While such analysis is done on random samples, the minister said that the best testament to the high quality

and safety of Jordanian produce is the fact that exports to markets like the EC are regularly analyzed and are passed.

"A good indication of the safety of our produce is that not a single shipment of our produce was rejected by the EC," said Dr Khasawneh. He added that Jordan routinely "transfers" the latest world standards, such as those of the FAO, FDA and the EC, since detection limits are getting better and more complicated all the time.

Commenting on Saudi Arabia's temporary ban on Jordanian produce, Dr Khasawneh said that the Saudis charged that one vegetable shipment was found to contain the fecal *coliform* bacteria, which is an indicator of the use of untreated sewage water in irrigation. "We tested samples from the trucks that were returned and found no evidence of the bacteria," he said.

The minister complained of the timing of the Saudi affair and the confusion created by the local

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By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

Intifada's young victims get a helping hand

"CAN'T WE go and buy cigarettes?" may be odd words to gladden the heart, but when Agneta Magnusson heard them from a young, wheel-chair bound Palestinian in Ramallah, they sounded better than music.

Mrs Magnusson and her husband Ivan have been in the West Bank since 1989, he to help establish the Ramallah Community Rehabilitation Center and to develop community-based rehabilitation (CBR) throughout the Occupied Territories, and she as a representative of Diakonia, a Swedish service organization active in 50 countries around the world.

Swedish support for rehabilitation in the territories came following a visit to Jerusalem's Masked Hospital by the then Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson in March 1988. Mr Andersson saw that many of the Intifada's young heroes had been paralyzed by Israeli army bullets leaving them helpless and dependent, so he made speedy arrangements for financial assistance from the Swedish government development agency (SIDA) for rehabilitation activity.

As an agency with experience of both the Middle East and of support for children and young people, Diakonia, the development assistance organization of the Swedish Free Church Council, was asked to take on the job.

Working with the local Patients Care Society, they took the skeleton of a school building, completed it and equipped it as a 30-bed center with outpatients facilities, a hydrotherapy pool and all modern equipment which was ready for its first patients in April 1990 and has been fully operational since April 1991.

Diakonia also supplied Swed-



Rehabilitating the Intifada's injured

ish physio- and occupational therapists, together with a doctor and two nurses, who started a rehabilitation "revolution" which is now spreading throughout the Occupied Territories.

As Mrs Andersson explains, the Swedish approach to rehabilitation is to promote the highest

level possible of self reliance and integration among the disabled by maximizing whatever abilities they have and encouraging them to go beyond what they think are their limits.

This means a lot of hard work and often a painful process of adjustment for both the disabled

person and his family, who have often become accustomed to the idea of his helplessness. It is hard for a mother to stand by and watch as her son struggles with simple jobs that could be finished in seconds with just a little help.

The reward comes when a young man in a wheel-chair regains his ability to wash and dress himself, to manage stairs alone, to go out in the rutted streets for his own cigarettes and, as they did in the city last winter, to take part in a wheel-chair rally that continued despite inches of snow and the early opposition of Israeli soldiers... although they were later won over and helped to clear a route for the rally.

Mrs Magnusson says the local Palestinian physiotherapists, most of them trained in more conservative techniques in Eastern Europe, were quick to respond to the new approach. Their work is not confined to the center but also involves home visits to see what adaptations can be made to enable the disabled person to function efficiently and independently once he returns home.

The Ramallah center, which specializes in spinal cord injuries — most of them the result of bullet wounds — is now being developed along with the Bethlehem Arab Society and the Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children in Jerusalem as a referral center and as one level in a comprehensive three level system to assist the West Bank and Gaza's estimated 30,000 to 40,000 disabled people.

As Mrs Magnusson explains, the other two levels are primary health care and physiotherapy clinics and, as a basis, community-based care for which rehabilitation workers are being trained in both the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Their job is to go out to

villages and towns to find the disabled and then to see what kind of help they need, or, for those returning home after treatment in a center, to ensure that their rehabilitation work continues.

As part of the rehabilitation program Diakonia has funded the rebuilding and equipping of an orthopaedic workshop at the Princess Basma Center, as well as providing an orthopaedic engineer for two years to offer training to Palestinian staff, two of whom have been invited to Sweden for further training. It is also providing a teacher for Amman's Occupational Therapy college, which is in turn offering places for three West Bank students. Cooperation with local organizations, the real experts on how things work on the ground, and the training of local staff to take over the full running of projects is the major goal of all Diakonia activities, says Mrs Magnusson.

Diakonia involvement in the Occupied Territories includes support for a center for mentally disabled children, plus a program for slow learners and for students who have dropped out of school due to the pressures of the Intifada.

Mrs Magnusson came to work for Diakonia from a career in special education and more recently work with refugees in Sweden, her social worker husband Ivan from a position as social director for a Swedish town.

Diakonia has been involved in development activities in the Middle East since the 1970s, but only Agneta Magnusson had any direct experience of the region from a spell working in a home for disabled children in the West Bank in 1978.

The Magnussons had connections with Diakonia through their church in Sweden and were happy to work with the organization, which distributes over SwC 100 million annually in support of projects to promote more just living conditions in the developing world.

Now, three years later, their dedication is absolute. They have no time limit on their stay in the Occupied Territories, and as Mrs Magnusson confirms, "It will last as long as we are needed."

'Our main concern is the health of Jordanians'

Continued from page 3

press. He said the cabinet was monitoring the effects of the increasing load on the Khirbat As-Samra treatment station as a result of the impact of the immigration wave and its effect on the Amman sewage system. "The station was operating beyond its design capacity," said Dr Khasawneh. While denying any connection between the overload on Khirbat As-Samra treatment station and the Saudi complaint, the minister explained that secondary treated water coming out of the plant could be used to irrigate crops that are not eaten fresh but eaten cooked. "Our main concern is the health of Jordanians," he said, explaining the cabinet's de-

cision early last week to destroy all vegetable crops along the Zarqa River basin which is irrigated by Khirbat As-Samra water.

Dr Khasawneh said that the volume of crops coming from the Zarqa basin represents less than one percent of the total volume and can hardly account for widespread contamination of produce.

Responding to allegations that chemically-contaminated local food production may account for the rise of cancer-related cases in Jordan, Dr Khasawneh said that Jordan imports around 85 percent of its food and "to say that the increase in cancer cases is caused by local food production is simply unscientific."

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Ice sculptures: A touch of glass

The masterly ice sculptures of Yukio Matsuo have been preserved in photographs for a book published by the artist.

By Charles Vinding

LONDON — THERE cannot be many books about an art form so temporary: It lasts only as long as the banquet or special occasion for which it is created.

This is the transient art of ice sculpture. A new book about its unique beauty is the product of an artist once called the "Rodin of the North Pole".

Yukio Matsuo is the "master" of his remarkable work's title: *Ice Sculptures: Secrets of a Japanese Master*. There seems to be nothing he cannot carve in ice.

Crystal-like carvings of the Eiffel Tower, a Concorde supersonic airliner in flight, a four-masted square-rigged 'tall ship' under full sail, birds, fish, a drinking glass of ice with a smaller glass imprisoned within it, animals, bees, snowflakes of ice, an ice violin... all are carved with mathematical precision and fantastic detail.

A glass-like Cinderella coach drawn by six transparent horses towards a fantasy castle of pinnales and turrets recreate in transparent form the wonderful world of fairy tales. Matsuo records that this outdoor sculpture took 200 blocks of ice, each weighing 135 kg, when he carved it for Christmas 1983.

Matsuo is not termed a master for nothing. "In 1991," says his book's jacket — he is too modest

to mention it himself — "he won the world championship of the International Ice Carving Competition in Ottawa, Canada."

He won Japan's annual ice carving championship three times, and has demonstrated his art throughout France, Canada and the United States. At 45, he teaches — and carves — at Tokyo's Takanawa Prince hotel.

Matsuo is up against the toughest competition in the world. Japan is a leading center for what he calls "subzero art." The country has an estimated 10,000-plus ice carvers currently.

Japan's nationwide Ice Sculpture Association has staged an annual competition every year since 1955. There are many Japanese ice sculpture festivals, the most notable being an annual extravaganza in the northern island of Hokkaido, where Matsuo was born.

He trained as a chef, but three years later encountered his first ice sculpture. It was the most common banquet carving motif, a swan, but it changed his life.

"Since I was born in Hokkaido, I was familiar with ice," he writes. "Also, I liked to draw. So I jumped at ice sculpture and carved in my own way, using carpenter's chisels."

Gradually Matsuo formed a style which revolutionized ice carving. Its essence is described by Akira Kagajo, current president of the Japan Ice Sculpture Association.

At the nation-wide contest 12 years ago, Kagajo recalls, there

was one entry that "didn't attract attention" during judging "because it looked rough-hewn."

It was midsummer and the sculptures were melting rapidly. By the time the judging had finished, this rough carving "had come alive."

"This is the real ice sculpture, I thought," Kagajo writes. "The essence of ice sculpture is to create them to show their best at the climax of events."

Matsuo himself puts it even more plainly.

"Ice sculpture is created with the clear understanding that ice is to melt," he says. "A swan that looks rough at first will show a neat silhouette" when melting smooths it. "That unfolding beauty is the strong point of ice sculpture."

Many of the 120-odd sculptures photographed in Matsuo's book show this "rough-hewn" texture. A few matching photographs show the smoothing effect of time.

Photographs of Matsuo's frozen creations, in fact, are the heart of his unusual book. Its foreword is 10 testimonials by various personalities to Matsuo's skill.

The book is not only a gallery of his finest work but a do-it-yourself manual. He provides step-by-step photographs of basic ice carving techniques. One section is on tools, everything from his custom-made electric drill to a modified chain saw, and how each tool is used.

Most of all, Matsuo gives squared charts, how-to-do-it dia-



Matsuo's 'Floating Amber' depicts swimming goldfish

grams and abbreviated instructions to make 70 of the sculptures he shows in the main part of the book.

He says nothing, however, about one outstanding sculpture, perhaps feeling it is beyond most mortals. This is a Ben Hur group approximately three metres wide: its chariot with spiked wheels, the driver flicking a thin, sinuously twisting whip — carved of ice — onto four ice horses, three straining in full racing flight, the fourth rearing upward in exuberant excitement.

This is typical of Matsuo's imagination and range. He carves a brontosaurus dinosaur skeleton in ice. An ice harp, or a hollow crystal vase with real flowers inside, or Cinderella's glass slipper in ice.

"Ice sculpture presents images," he writes. "But image is not everything: There must be a theme" matching the occasion and a "balance with the food" to be served.

For a ski championship party he sculpted three giant eagles "to give the feeling of soaring." To welcome an American football team, a full-sized player passing a football, with the team's logo at his feet.

"Hawks are the motif that I create best," Matsuo says. But one of his most astonishing carvings is of a duck, rising in vertical take off, wings thrusting forward, tail fanned, seemingly poised in mid-air. It is a virtuous display of realistic motion captured in ice. ■

Street art lends color to a somber urban landscape

By Michèle Bresson

PARIS — FUTURISTIC images of drab grey cities confined between straight lines and sharp angles could remain in the domain of science fiction. More architects and town planners are turning their attention to recreating, in drab urban surroundings, the fantasy worlds of *A Thousand and One Nights*.

As the notion of bringing color into building projects gains ground, the modern town planners' vision of the city in the year 2000 is gradually assuming the appearance, if not yet the substance, of traditional environments.

Juan Carlos Langlois, an Argentine artist involved with United Nations projects for the promotion of popular culture, sees the use of color in architecture as a way of defusing social tensions in today's cities. Besides being an effective medium emphasizing space and volume, he believes that a bold use of color in street art can play an important role.

In a report for the UNESCO Courier, Langlois reflects on the colorful murals and trompe-l'oeil facades of cities in India and South America and sees them in their greater context of social reconstruction.

In the battle of encounter, exchange and dialogue that the urban planners, facade, doorways, windows, pavements: and

urban fittings, decked out in color, provide a favorable background for a revived 'urbanism' in search of a new form of 'urbanity' in its original, positive sense," he says. "The whole city becomes more understandable and more convivial as color, the poetry of the street, triumphs over drabness."

The long-term impact of the Industrial Revolution, which first engulfed and transformed Europe in 1730 and the rest of the world in the following decades, still reverberates through the urban sprawls. Combined with the boom-and-bust aftershocks of the past two centuries, the resulting trauma has led to deep-set problems.

Over-population, coupled with inadequate transport and housing, is exacerbated by the onslaught of wastes and effluents that both individuals and their providers, factories and businesses, heap on their environment and add to its dangers, dullness and lack of color.

Atmospheric pollution further accentuates the sombre colors of spiritless urban complexes and high-rise buildings. Statistics show that areas with hard and grey concrete fronts are more prone to crime and dereliction.

In the process of attempting to imitate the rigid marbled styles believed to be the canons of Greco-Roman classical town-planners, it seems, lost sight of

the social importance given to color by inhabitants of ancient cities. Splashes of rich tones and subtle shades are found in the art of some of the most ancient civilizations, "the use of color as a symbolic language," according to Langlois, "seems to have been an important cultural development."

Signs of a return to color were first seen when the work of three Mexican artists — Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros — caused a stir in the United States. In the 1920s, their search for a form of art that "would be monumental and heroic yet human and popular," resulted in gigantic frescoes depicting major episodes in the history of Mexico.

The murals led to commissions for more work of his kind and President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated a vast program to provide work for American artists who were gravely affected by the economic crisis of the 1930s. In only a few years the program resulted in more than 2,500 colorful murals.

Today the influence of color can be seen in a Victorian-style district of San Francisco, where striking colors have transformed the area giving it an air of security and well-being.

Many cities in Europe are turning to primary colors for industrial buildings, bridges and iron infrastructure. One example is the red, yellow, blue and green



Decorated wall of a house in the Indian city of Benares

bridge at Vierzon railway station in France. Christiane Groud, the artist who visualized the "burst of color" on the bridge, has done many urban murals seeing them as a way of "brightening up the landscape and putting to shame the drabness of everyday life."

Bright colors, being more resilient to the dulling effects of pollution, seem to be the answer to some of the more intractable inner city problems. At the same time, they can be outlets for artistic expression.

Traditional paintings on walls and even buses and lorries in Pakistan and India give a sense of identity and continuity. In Turkey, authorities frequently bring

pressure to bear upon homeowners to tidy up or paint their facades. In one famous decree, a former Turkish military ruler, Kemal Evren, ordered villagers to paint their houses in order to brighten up the landscape.

Traditional embellishments, still seen in many cities, are, according to Langlois, "an indication of the extent to which the peoples of those countries nourished their spiritual and imaginative vision through contact with a world of color," providing the answers to many of the world's urban problems. ■

Academic File

Regional Business Report



US to sell \$5bn of F-15s to Saudis

THE Bush administration has proceeded with a \$5 billion sale of as many as 72 F-15 aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

The sale is controversial, especially in the middle of a presidential election campaign in which President George Bush is actively courting Jewish votes.

The sale has caused concern because the Bush administration is publicly committed to stopping the arms race in the Middle East.

If approved by Congress the deal could be worth as much as \$5 billion for the aircraft maker McDonnell Douglas, and dozens of other US companies.

Israel and the powerful American Jewish community vigorously opposed the deal. But their hopes of blocking it were dashed when the Democratic presidential hopeful, Mr Bill Clinton, said last week that he would not object to the sale if it did not violate US security commitments to Israel. Saudi Arabia already has 84 F-15s.

Israeli budget will curb unemployment

THE Israeli Treasury dismissed charges that the 1993 budget will not do enough to alleviate unemployment, as the Israeli cabinet began discussing the proposal.

The NIS 98 billion budget has come under heavy attack by the Labor government's largest coalition partner, Meretz, and from Labor's "social welfare" caucus, who charge it fails to provide solutions to the heavy unemployment plaguing the country and is insensitive to social welfare issues.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat is also expected to run into heavy opposition from ministers over his plan to cut some NIS 900 million from various budgetary items.

The budget includes plans to employ an additional 22,000 people in the public sector next year, 12,400 in the educational system, including universities, 4,000 in the health system, 2,800 in vocational training and social welfare programs, and 2,800 in the municipalities.

However, according to Treasury projections, unemployment will drop to only 10.7 per cent from this year's average of 11 per cent.

Employment will be created through a four-point plan:

- Keeping interest rates at their current low rate or slightly lower, which will encourage investment.
- Improving infrastructure, to encourage investment (which has the additional benefit of providing some jobs in infrastructure development).
- Maintaining investment-encouragement benefits.

Structural economic changes designed to "unplug bottlenecks." Absorption Minister Yair Tsaaban said Meretz has the freedom to vote with its conscience on economic issues and Economics Minister Shimon Shetret (Labor) is also dissatisfied with the proposal as it stands, and will ask the cabinet to boost social welfare spending, further cut taxes, and spend NIS 700 million, on "national projects" to provide jobs.

Last Thursday, Meretz issued a long list of items totalling at least NIS 600 million, that it will demand be added to the budget. The additions include boosting spending on child allowances and giving Arab youths who do not serve in the army a grant equivalent

lent to that given to newly-released soldiers.

Gulf Air in \$600 million Airbus order

AIRBUS Industries strengthened its grip on the Middle Eastern aircraft market with an order worth almost \$600 million from Gulf Air.

Gulf Air, jointly owned by Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi, is buying six Airbus A340s, the biggest aircraft in the Airbus range, and taking options on another six.

Gulf Air will be the first Middle East carrier to operate the A340 when it receives the first in spring 1994. Each aircraft will be powered by four engines made by CFM International, a venture between General Electric of the US and Snecma of France.

The purchase is in addition to plans by Gulf Air to invest \$1.7 billion over the next three years in 18 new aircraft, flights to 10 new destinations and more facilities and personnel. Gulf Air is a long-established customer of Airbus. It has ordered 12 Airbus A320s, a smaller model, two of which are in service on routes within the Gulf.

The order is a boost of Airbus after Emirates, another expansion-minded Middle Eastern airline, decided to buy Boeing's new model, the 777. The A340 is a new model set to enter service with Lufthansa early next year.

Indonesian banks hit by capital requirements

INDONESIA'S quoted private banks have published generally poor half-year results due partly to financial restructuring to meet higher capital adequacy requirements.

In March, the government enforced a capital adequacy requirement of 5 per cent, to be raised to 7 per cent by next March and 8 per cent by December 1993, in accordance with Bank for International Settlements guidelines.

To meet the requirement last March, some banks moved substantial funds into central bank certificates, which attract a zero



A delegation of over 200 Druze leaders from the Golan Heights move through a passport control checkpoint on their return from a visit to Syria, where they met with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

capital adequacy weighting, as against customer loans, which carry a 100 per cent weighting.

The result, however, has been a loss of interest income. Central bank certificates offer interest at about 17 per cent, substantially below customer lending rates of 25 per cent and lower even than average deposit rates of 19 per cent.

Kazakhstan calms Israeli fears

MR Sergei Tereschenko, prime minister of Kazakhstan, said during a visit to Israel that his country had no intention of selling any of the nuclear arsenal it inherited after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Israeli leaders were understood to have voiced their concern to Tereschenko that none of the cen-

tral Asian republic's nuclear expertise or weaponry, which includes multi-warhead SS-18 ground-to-ground missiles and nuclear bombers, should fall into the hands of Iran or Arab states hostile to Israel.

Kazakhstan has entered an agreement, along with Ukraine and Belarus, to return its nuclear arsenal to Russia by the end of 1994. Mr Tereschenko said fears that economic difficulties might tempt Kazakhstan to sell some of its arsenal "to Iran or any other country" were unfounded.

The prime minister's three day visit last week is the highest-level exchange so far in a growing effort by the Jewish state to develop trade and diplomatic links with the former Soviet Muslim republics. Israel is anxious to blunt the influence of Iran and Arab countries over the newly-independent regimes, as well as lay the groundwork for what it hopes will be lucrative long-term trade ties.

It has made considerable progress with Kazakhstan, run by secular former communists. Mr Tereschenko, who was due to sign several agreements covering trade, technology and cultural exchanges during his visit, held talks with Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli premier, and Mr Shimon Peres, the foreign minister. They decided to set up a committee to study joint economic projects.

Two Israeli private-sector companies, Merhav and Mr Shaul Eisenberg's Israel Corporation, have together already established contracts in Kazakhstan, mainly in upgrading agriculture.

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By Wendy Sloane

MOSCOW: NOONE knows how the collapse of the Soviet Union will eventually affect the spread of HIV in the former republics, but the immediate prognosis is bleak.

One result of the dissolution of the country into separate independent states is the breakdown of the centralized AIDS education program initiated by the Soviet Ministry of Health. Although Russia and the Baltic states have created or are continuing their own prevention programs, most republics are too busy rebuilding shattered economies or fighting civil or ethnic wars to concentrate on AIDS prevention and care.

"I would say we are at the beginning of an epidemic," warned Dr Irina Yeramova, an epidemiologist at Moscow's Second Infectious Disease Hospital, once the USSR's main AIDS center. Nadezhda Sirotina, chief AIDS specialist at Russia's Sanitary and Epidemiological Inspection Committee, recently told *Pravda* newspaper. "Nobody knows how many infected people we actually have."

Although the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences earlier estimated that 6,000 people throughout the former republics would test positive by the end of 1991 — and predicted as many as 24,000 by late 1992 — official statistics released by the former Soviet Central Institute of Epidemiology and AIDS Prevention reported 673 people across the country had tested HIV positive as of December 1991, primarily in Russia and the Ukraine. And despite challenges by experts both in and outside the former USSR that government HIV/AIDS statistics are unreliable, the absence of a centralized body to facilitate communication and tabulate information from the republics means an accurate assessment of the epidemic is now almost impossible.



A Moscow AIDS patient wears a mask to protect his privacy

AIDS activists, who believe

that the rate of infection in the former Soviet Union is steadily catching up with the rest of the world, have issued more alarm-

HIV:

Bleak prognosis for ex-USSR

ing estimates. "The prognosis ranges from 15,000 to one million HIV positive people by the end of the decade," said Kevin Gardner, a US AIDS activist currently working in Russia with the California-based Center for Better Health.

When AIDS first appeared in the Soviet Union in the mid-1980s, officials blamed the West. They argued that foreigners spread the disease through sexual contact with prostitutes, or homosexual men and refused to believe the virus posed a threat to people outside these groups.

But when more than 200 children in southern Russia became infected in 1988 due to improperly sterilized hospital syringes, the government reacted and the Soviet Health Ministry implemented an AIDS prevention program that included mandatory blood and plasma screening, HIV testing for pregnant women and people scheduled for major surgery and for foreigners intending to reside in the country for longer than three months. In late 1990, officials reported that hospital mismanagement has not been implicated in further cases of infection.

But the disease is still spreading and the new culprit is unprotected sex. One reason is that condoms manufactured domestically are scarce and of poor quality — abortion is still the leading method of birth control. Addi-

tionally, the former government's campaign stopped short of precisely informing the public how HIV is transmitted. Instead, its educational campaign consisted almost entirely of posters which exhorted people to "Stop AIDS" and brochures which never mentioned safer sex. Although there are no documented cases of HIV transmitted through injecting drug use, the practice is becoming more popular as young people either imitate Western lifestyles or turn to drugs to escape from a society they perceive has no future. As the economy disintegrates further and prices from cabbages to clothes continue to soar, more people have turned to prostitution — which means many sexual partners without the protection of condoms — as a means of survival.

But Gennady Kurminskol, a spokesman for the Moscow-based Me and You support and advocacy group for people with HIV, hopes the newly independent republics will develop more realistic and accurate AIDS prevention programs. "Now they will get their own specialists and their own activists; I think the situation could improve," he commented.

Despite the enthusiasm of activists like Kurminskol, the fight against AIDS will be uphill. Only a handful of non-government organizations have joined the few government-funded AIDS awareness campaigns across the former USSR. "I think we aren't any better than the Americans, except we lag behind developmentally and are weak economically," said Kurminskol. "Soon we'll have as many people who are HIV positive as there are in the United States, but life for them will be much more difficult."

WorldAIDS

Watching the nutrition pendulum swing

By Maryam Schiller

GENEVA — MALNUTRITION is traditionally synonymous with food shortages, but in some parts of the developing world it is now being experienced in reverse — with the gorgings of the privileged upper crust.

The result: Heart disease is spreading faster than it takes to bring people into the upper income brackets. The cost: Pledging health programs are creaking under the burden of the social and economic implications of new diseases.

As one health worker put it, "the nutritional pendulum is swinging the other way and most people have yet to realize its significance, because malnutrition is still largely believed to mean not enough food. In fact it now often means too much of bad or the wrong kind of food."

To the half a billion people who are judged to be chronically undernourished must be added those who, in the first flush of personal prosperity, have landed themselves into all sorts of medical trouble — from diseases of the digestive system due to poor eating habits to cardiovascular diseases.

This does not, of course, minimize the crisis created in Third World economies by malnutrition in its first kind, where children of hunger, or people, young and old, are unable to combat diseases because of

poor health. The World Health Organization has recorded that malnutrition exists in some form in every country. The figures vary according to the measures used, but no one doubts the seriousness of a problem whose victims are numbered in millions.

Nearly 13 million under-fives die every year from infections and as a direct or indirect result of hunger and malnutrition. More than a quarter of the world's population suffers from some degree of anaemia caused by iron deficiency.

The statistics make grim reading, but some progress has been made. The proportion of malnourished people has declined even though the world population continues to grow daily by some 250,000 people. Life expectancy in most developing countries is improving, mainly as a result of reduced early deaths from infectious diseases. Mortality among children is also declining, but still poses a major threat. Nearly 13 million under-fives died in 1990, about a third within the first month of life.

At the same time, however, longer life and changes in diet and lifestyle have contributed to the emergence of other major causes of disability and death, such as obesity, heart disease, hypertension, diabetes and various forms of cancer.

"People are living longer, but not necessarily better," says one WHO study. "One type of malnu-

trition is being replaced by or, worse still, superimposed upon another. This has brought into sharp focus the links between nutrition and health."

Amid this pessimistic scenario, however, world food production has kept pace with population growth, though poor distribution remains chronic.

In Africa, despite a series of disastrous droughts, the availability of food has improved in re-

cent years, although the situation is far from satisfactory and is much worse in some countries than others.

In Asia, where almost half the world's undernourished people live, the situation is a little better, with signs that the availability of food is beginning to outstrip population growth.

"But, as one WHO scientist points out, 'regional and country averages of food availability do

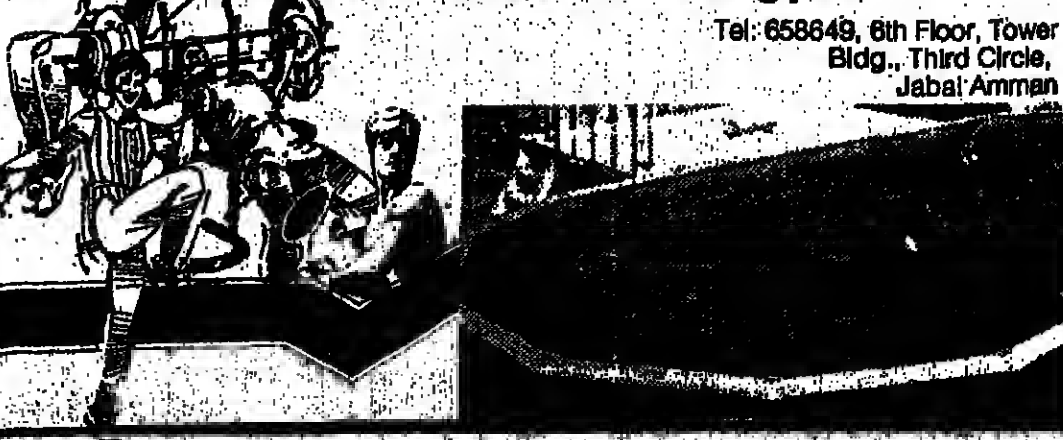
not reflect the situation for individuals. Some groups and individuals are much more at risk than others."

An estimated 510 million people do not have access to enough food to meet their minimum needs. Likewise, some social groups have an abundance of food. As malnutrition takes root its manifestations are becoming more and more unpredictable. ■ Academic File

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Our Say...

Israel's deal to Syria

WITH THE resumption of the peace talks in Washington this week, attention has focused again on the possible breakthrough in the so far deadlocked negotiations between Israel and Syria on the future of the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel since 1967. Before the current talks were interrupted at the behest of the Israeli negotiators, none of the Arab negotiating teams reported substantive change in the negotiating process. In fact, heads of the Arab negotiating teams warned that the much praised change in Israeli leadership did little to jump-start the talks and bring the interlocutors closer to an agreement on the issues at hand.

But on the Israeli side, a different version of the status of the talks emerged. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced that his country was ready to negotiate the future of the Golan Heights, including the withdrawal of troops, if Syria provided evidence that it was interested in a long-term peace arrangement with the Hebrew state.

While Syria rejected Israeli offers of a bilateral, as opposed to a comprehensive, settlement of the issues, the fact that Mr Rabin appeared to be willing to make concessions on one of the thorniest items on the peace agenda is extremely important. This development becomes even more important in contrast to the lack of any development along the Jordanian, Lebanese and Palestinian-Israeli tracks. Jordan and Israel have failed, due to Israeli obstacles, to agree on a working agenda. No progress whatsoever was made along the Lebanese-Israeli track, and the Palestinians can't seem to agree on how to deal with Israel's offer of limited self-rule.

So why exclude the Syrians? It is easy to see Israel's gain from securing a bilateral agreement with Syria along similar terms to those outlined in the infamous Camp David Accords. If Mr Rabin was able to isolate Syria, weaken the Arab negotiating position and forestall a settlement with the Palestinians, Jordan and Lebanon, then he would have masterminded a political and diplomatic coup for Israel.

Naturally, the Syrians see the Rabin deal for what it is. By accepting a separate deal with Israel at the expense of other Arab partners, they would seal the fate of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli problem.

On the other hand, if the Syrians resist the Israeli offer and redirect the negotiations into the mainstream of the Arab-Israeli issues, which is based on an overall resolution of all problems between the Arabs and the Israelis, they would be stripping Mr Rabin of his wild card. Peace is an urgent need for all the peoples of the region, but it cannot be awarded in halves and quarters.

Both Israel and the Arabs stand to gain from a comprehensive settlement. Israel will not gain by delaying a solution to its problems with Jordan, the Palestinians, the Lebanese and all the Arabs, by another ten, 15 or 20 years. Status quo realities cannot change the essence of any problem, as we have discovered in the cases of East Germany and the peoples and republics of the now defunct Soviet Union.

Mr Rabin should think like a strategist and not like a politician. The Arabs should examine their own recent history and judge by the outcome not by the glow of the event itself. Standing together in the negotiating process will prevent the loss of a golden opportunity to bring justice and peace to this region of the world. Breaking ranks will thrust the region into a vicious circle of frustration, anger and militancy.

Chile A commitment to democracy

By Nelson Hadad Heresi

ON THE occasion of the 182nd anniversary of Chilean Independence, the Republic of Chile is now decisively resolved to one of the most relevant tasks of the contemporary world, to enhance democracy and achieve progress with equity and social justice under the wise guidance of President Patricio Aylwin.

Chilean democracy has a long tradition, which originates from its constitution as an independent republic at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Nevertheless, almost two decades ago, Chile lost its democratic harmony. Difficult years came as a result, during which intolerance and violence rose above mutual understanding.

In spite of that, Chile was able to come back to its original set of values and re-establish the state of law as well as a dynamic, modern and competitive economy with clear and stable rules.

The new challenge of Chile is a sustained economic growth. This goal will be achieved because the country has a vigorous private sector, a creative and strong working force, as well as a modern infrastructure of political and economic institutions which are a guarantee of institutional stability.

Bilateral relations between Chile and Jordan are very old and are excellent in all fields. New procedures to increase the levels of economic and commercial exchange are being undertaken through the establishment of direct shipping lines between Chilean harbors and Aqaba, which will diminish shipping costs. Their Cultural and Scientific Agreement is also under a process of renewal. The cited agreement promotes exchange and cooperation in education, journalism, health, technological transfer and tourism.

In this context, a Jordanian police officer is now in Chile for a scholarship for a specialization course in transit accidents, which was granted by the Chilean police. In the same manner, a reciprocal visit has been organized to Jordan by an official delegation of Chile's main tourist agents, headed by the Chile's National Director of Tourism, in order to explore the possibilities of tourist exchange between the Kingdom, Chile and Latin America.

The visit to Chile in March this year of their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal at the invite of the Chilean Air Force had significant success. On that occasion the International Air and Space Fair was held in the capital of the republic, Santiago.

Furthermore, the Chilean president recently extended an official invitation for their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor to visit Chile, by which the Jordanian monarch will perform his first visit to my country and Latin America, therefore giving great impulse to the consolidation of the traditional bonds of friendship which unite Chile and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As ambassador to Chile in Jordan, I hope that the official visit of the Jordanian monarch can be performed in the near future.

In connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, the position of Chile has been defined in accordance with its traditional pacific vocation, the norms of international law, as well as the principles which inspire the United Nations Charter. In this context, Chile supports the pacific solution to international conflicts and supports as a consequence the International peace conference for the Middle East initiated last October in Madrid.

In the same manner, Chile rejects the acquisition of territory through force and supports the full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 445, which demand the withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied in the war of 1967.

Finally, Chile supports the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, and their right for an independent state as well as the respect of the territorial integrity of all the states of the region including Israel, and its right to have secure and internationally acknowledged borders.

In the same manner, it respects the policy of settlements in the Arab occupied territories and adheres in all its contents to the Geneva Conventions related to the respect and protection of civilians in times of war.

Mr Nelson Hadad Heresi is the Chilean ambassador to Jordan.



Images from Chile's past: Allende (above), Pinochet (below)



By Dr Marwan Asmar

THE ISSUE of Israeli settlements is undoubtedly a central theme in the current peace negotiations which aim at providing the Palestinians with some form of self-rule. What will become of these settlements is a bone of contention between the Palestinians and the international community, who believe that the settlements are an obstacle to the peace process, and for Israeli policy-makers, who had long made the building of such settlements in the occupied territories as the cornerstone of Israel's national security policy.

A historical viewpoint

The building of settlements can be traced back to 1967, when Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights. Concerned with national security and with the 'siege mentality' syndrome, the then Labor government proceeded to build a strip of military settlements along the Jordan Valley in accordance with what then known as the Allon Plan. Although these settlements were later inhabited by civilians, the underlying notion for which they were created, that of security, remained the same. By the time Labor left office in 1977, 25 settlements had been built with two more on the way. It is prudent to point out that it was Yitzhak Rabin who was then prime minister and a strong proponent of 'security' settlements.

In 1977 Likud formed its first government, ending 30 years of continuous Labor rule. The new Likud government, which had a markedly different ideology, couched in Biblical terms and believing in the concept of Greater Israel, was determined that the 'territories' would forever remain part of Israel. Armed with this belief, Prime Minister Menachem Begin and his minister of agriculture, Ariel Sharon, embarked on an extensive plan to colonize the occupied territories through the building of settlements. For Begin and Sharon, the earlier Allon Plan of Labor to build settlements along the Jordan River was not enough to safeguard Israel's national security. These had to be reinforced and thickened by the building of further settlements in the occupied territories.

This remained the central objective of the Likud governments for the next 15 years until it lost the general election to the Labor Party in June 1992. Even when Begin signed the Camp David accords in 1979, he emphasized that he was granting autonomy for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza which excluded the land, which he regarded to be the historic land of Israel. To prove his point, Israel announced the building of new settlements on the eve of Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1978.

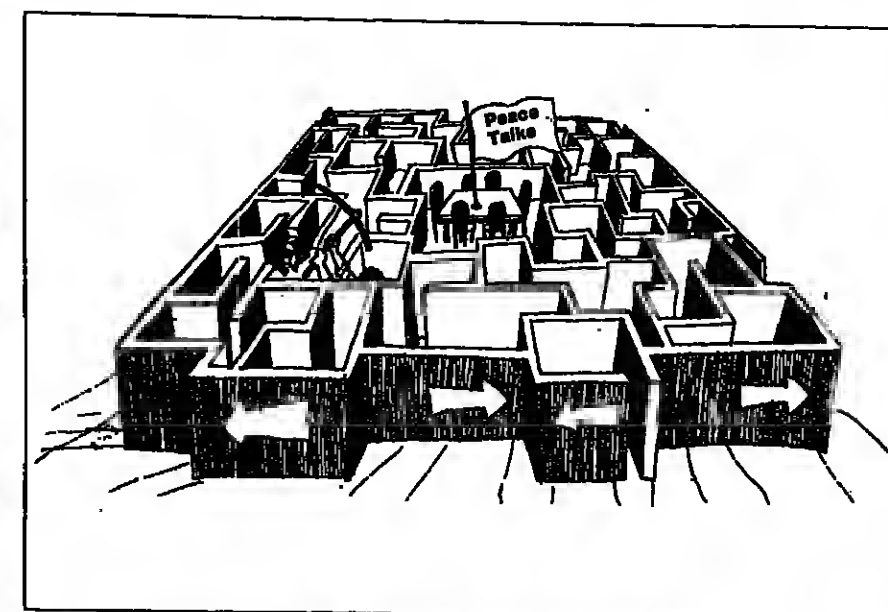
In any event, the Camp David accords were limited to a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, while Palestinian autonomy was soon forgotten and Israel tightened its grip over the territories of which settlements were the most important means.

Yitzhak Shamir's premiership in the 1980s was also based on this premise. He, however, wanted to consolidate this and to establish a status quo situation, a status quo based on the building of settlements which were impossible to remove in the event of a peaceful solution. Indeed this was what Shamir's long delaying tactics in the 1991-92 peace negotiations were all about, as exposed by his Defence Minister Moshe Arens when Likud lost the last elections. Arens argued that Shamir promised to drag the peace process for the next 10 years to make sure that the occupied territories were filled with Jewish settlements, which would then be very difficult to remove.

The Labor win and its perception of settlements

The 1992 general election was a watershed for Israeli politics, since it brought to power a Labor government after 15 years of continuous Likud rule. Labor, under Rabin, presented different views on the economy, the peace process and the question of American loans, which the Bush administration had halted because of Shamir's intransigence on the issue of settlements building in the occupied territories.

Israeli settlements: Future prospects and implications (1)



surrounding areas.

Rabin himself has traditionally believed that settlements should not be built in a way which would be provocative to the existing population, but should only be established for security purposes. Today, however, the problem has become much more complicated. Since a large number of settlements are scattered all over the occupied territories, what will happen to these is not precisely known. What is known however, is that the Labor government has emphasized that it will not dismantle any settlement.

But if this is the case and Labor is to be taken at its own word, then Rabin's definition must be argued to be a public exercise in domestic and international diplomacy. While the retention of settlements will certainly affect Rabin's domestic standing among the settlers, it is to the international public that he must look if he is to make progress in the peace negotiations.

Taking this into account, a number of questions will be asked and will have to be answered in the coming months. Will the existing settlements be termed as security ones, and if this is the case how far will

Rabin himself has traditionally believed that settlements should not be built in a way which would be provocative to the existing population, but should only be established for security purposes.

Today, however, the problem has become much more complicated. Since a large number of settlements are scattered all over the occupied territories what will happen to these is not precisely known. What is known however, is that the Labor government has emphasized that it will not dismantle any settlement.

Political settlements were to be 'frozen' which meant that most settlements in the occupied territories can be argued to be political since they are settled by Jewish civilians.

On the other hand, Rabin is emphatic about maintaining what he termed as 'security' settlements and in building new ones wherever and whenever they are thought to be necessary. Security settlements are different from political ones in that they are located in areas strategically important to Israel's national security.

Under Palestinian self-rule, security settlements would remain or new ones would be created alongside the Jordan River. Similarly in the Golan Heights the 30 settlements that already exist there are expected to remain for strategic considerations as well as settlements in Jerusalem and its

surrounding areas.

Rabin himself has traditionally believed that settlements should not be built in a way which would be provocative to the existing population, but should only be established for security purposes. Today, however, the problem has become much more complicated. Since a large number of settlements are scattered all over the occupied territories, what will happen to these is not precisely known. What is known however, is that the Labor government has emphasized that it will not dismantle any settlement.

But if this is the case and Labor is to be taken at its own word, then Rabin's definition must be argued to be a public exercise in domestic and international diplomacy. While the retention of settlements will certainly affect Rabin's domestic standing among the settlers, it is to the international public that he must look if he is to make progress in the peace negotiations.

Taking this into account, a number of questions will be asked and will have to be answered in the coming months. Will the existing settlements be termed as security ones, and if this is the case how far will

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Political settlements were to be 'frozen' which meant that most settlements in the occupied territories can be argued to be political since they are settled by Jewish civilians.

On the other hand, Rabin is emphatic about maintaining what he termed as 'security' settlements and in building new ones wherever and whenever they are thought to be necessary. Security settlements are different from political ones in that they are located in areas strategically important to Israel's national security.

Under Palestinian self-rule, security settlements would remain or new ones would be created alongside the Jordan River. Similarly in the Golan Heights the 30 settlements that already exist there are expected to remain for strategic considerations as well as settlements in Jerusalem and its

consider Jerusalem to be part of the occupied territories but as the eternal capital of Israel, and therefore does not take into account the 14 settlements that have been built in the city and around it since 1967. Thus, government figures up to 1990 have put the number of settlements built at 132. However, the Peace Now Movement, which has been publishing annual reports regarding this issue has put the figure at 144, while others put the figure at 155. Still other sources argue that the figure has reached 187 settlements, if the 30 settlements in the Golan and the 14 in the Jerusalem area are taken into account.

Added to this is the true number of Israeli settlers in the occupied territories. US Department of State estimates put the number of settlers at 200,000 (though this number includes settlers inside the State of Israel), while the Settlement Council, which is responsible for settlements in the territories, puts the figure at 130,000. Peace Now on the other hand, puts the figure at 110,000 settlers. However, the extent of this increase can only be realized when it is pointed out that since 1984 the settler population increased by 40,000.

There also exist plans to increase the settler population to 250,000 by the year 2020. While this may have been temporarily shelved as a result of the peace negotiations, there are immediate plans to increase the number of settlers by 60,000, by virtue of the new housing units that have been commissioned.

While Jewish settlers today make up 13 per cent of the total population of the occupied territories, most of these are concentrated in the West Bank. Only 5,000 (some suggest 3,000) live in the Gaza Strip, while 12,000 reside in the Golan Heights.

The increase and projected increase of Jewish settlers meant that the building drive of settlements would continue. However, this took the form of expanding existing settlements rather than creating new ones. Indeed, this was a trend first started in the 1980s. The primary reason for this change in direction was to allay international criticism that came to be associated with the building of new settlements. Expansion of settlements has not attracted the same kind of attention and publicity, despite the fact that expansion is a more dangerous concept.

Expansion began to take place in most settlements in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights. By March 1991 Sharon, the then minister of housing, announced plans to build 13,000 housing units in the West Bank alone within the next two years. But Labor's Minister of Housing, Benjamin Ben Elizer, said that 8,500 of these would continue to be built. This is because of two primary reasons: First, because all these housing units are at various stages of development; 5,000 are already in the final stages of completion. Second, Ben Elizer argued it would be unrealistic to stop the building of these units because of the number of interests that have come to be built around such construction — that of the private contractors and of the type of settlers most of whom are associated with religious extremism and right wing ideology.

Back in the 1970s when Likud started the building program in earnest, it began to target particular groups of Jews to go and settle in the territories. These were right wing religious Zionists whose objective was to settle the territories as a prelude for final annexation of the territories to Israel. One such group is Gush Emunim, whose members take extreme and fanatic positions. They are backed by the National Religious Party and right-wing elements represented by parties like the Likud bloc, Tzomet and Mofedet.

It is because of such a political make-up that the present government will have to be careful in its peace negotiations efforts and will be using strategies and tactics designed to foster consensus and not to alienate its electorate. But the Israeli state has already taken steps that would guarantee it would get the biggest slice of the cake in the eventuality of a peace settlement. Jerusalem represented the apex of this guarantee.

Part II next week.

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Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Gros plan

Au service des exportations françaises

L'objectif du Service commercial français est d'inciter les entreprises hexagonales à travailler avec la Jordanie. Une petite équipe de dix personnes qui multiplie les activités pour accroître le commerce courant

"NOTRE PRINCIPAL but est de favoriser les relations commerciales et financières entre la France et la Jordanie" affirme Michel Duger, Conseiller économique et commercial français en Jordanie. Constat de départ: la France représente, avec les USA et le Japon, l'un des principaux supports financiers du royaume. En 1991 et 1992, Paris a accordé 30 milliards de dinars d'aide à la balance des paiements. Une nouvelle allocation pour l'année prochaine ainsi que des "projets" sont actuellement à l'étude. Impossible d'en savoir plus pour le moment.

Par ailleurs, la France est le 4ème fournisseur de la Jordanie, après avoir occupé la deuxième place, grâce aux livraisons d'Airbus en 1990. Autre chiffre: les sociétés françaises ont ouvert 18 bureaux et filiales à Amman dont 6 à compétence régionale. Le tableau de chasse semble satisfaisant... Le Service commercial français et son équipe d'environ dix personnes ne s'en contentent pas. Loin s'en faut!

Commerce courant

Les ventes françaises en Jordanie, à l'exception des avions, sont de l'ordre de 110 millions de dinars. Pour 80%, elles sont constituées par du commerce courant: 40% dans l'agro-alimentaire, 25% dans la chimie, 20% de biens de consommation... "Ce n'est pas énorme, mais c'est un début", affirme Michel Duger.

Une certitude: le développement de la présence française en Jordanie passe par l'accroissement des relations commerciales. "Le royaume signe de moins en moins de gros contrats, car il ne veut pas voir sa dette extérieure s'allonger davantage. La politique actuelle de la Jordanie est de laisser faire le secteur privé", ajoute le Conseiller commercial français. C'est précisément dans ce cadre qu'a débuté l'activité de ce service. Comment accroître la présence française en Jordanie? En établissant un programme de promotion des exportations. Une re-



Michel Duger: "Les ventes françaises en Jordanie, un début"

cette simple qui demande une bonne dose de dynamisme... Première action: une semaine spéciale "buffet traditionnel français" à l'hôtel Marriott (19-24 septembre). Celui-ci propose un repas de rêve à bas prix (6,500 dinars). Avec trois variétés de fromages, de la charcuterie, des plats typiques et les boissons adéquat. Les importateurs jordaniens sont associés à cette opération. "Nous voulons les pousser à être plus actifs" dit Michel Duger.

Deuxième temps fort annoncé par le Service commercial français: une mission de la Chambre de commerce française, du 25 au 29 septembre. Celle-ci sera conduite par le Président Habib Deloncle, ancien Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères du Général de Gaulle. "Nous sommes heureux, nous allons réunir onze participants français...". Et d'ajouter: "Ce n'était pourtant pas facile, la France parle beaucoup du marché jordannien et a

un peu tendance à oublier la Jordanie...". Le 26 septembre, dans le salon français de l'hôtel Philadelphie, les deux parties se rencontreront pour un meeting entre vendeurs et acheteurs. Par ailleurs, la mission sera reçue par la Fédération des Chambres de commerce jordannienne, par le Prince Hassan en personne et plusieurs membres du gouvernement.

Beaujolais nouveau

Le mois de novembre promet d'être également bien rempli. D'abord, une Semaine commerciale française se tiendra au Safeway du 14 au 23 novembre. "C'est un magasin moderne ouvert 24h sur 24, c'est un peu comme les galeries Lafayette en France", affirme Michel Duger. Au programme: présentation de produits français avec animation (musique, jeux, vidéo). Enfin, à partir du 25 novembre, les grands hôtels d'Amman se mettent sur leur trente et un pour l'arrivée du Beaujolais nou-

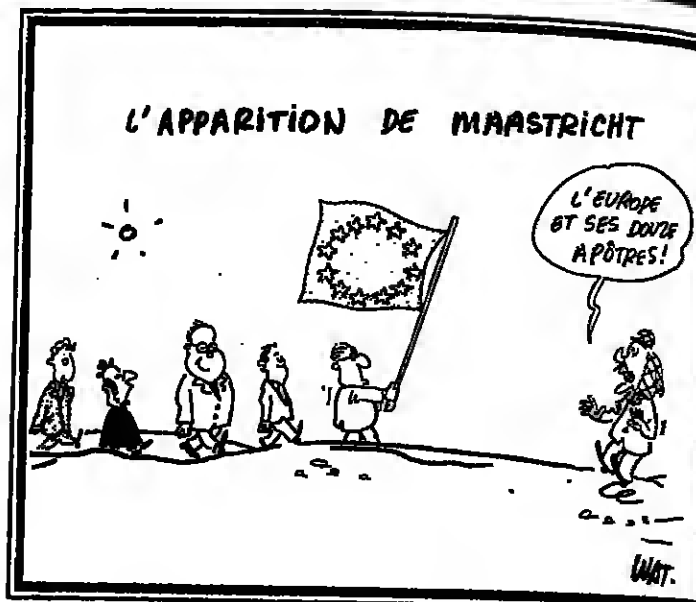
veau. Les prix? Ils seront toujours très abordables. "Les bouteilles ne vous coûteront pas 20 JD comme à l'habitude. C'est beaucoup trop. Nous faisons en sorte que le Beaujolais nouveau soit vendu seulement 6JD la bouteille" insiste Michel Duger. Au cours de ces multiples manifestations, la France entend bien tenir son rang de quatrième ex-

portateur dans le monde. Autre initiative pour aider l'exportateur français: le Service commercial édite en France une lettre d'informations sur le marché jordannien. "Les échos de Jordanie", toute jeune lettre mensuelle, est distribuée aux investisseurs à une centaine d'exemplaires.

Et les exportations jordanniennes? Elles sont pour le moment limitées. Chaque année, la Jordanie importe pour 1,7 milliards de dinars, alors qu'elle exporte pour 0,7 milliards. Soit une différence d'un milliard de dinars. "Bon que ce ne soit pas notre mission première, nous ne sommes pas formés... Nous travaillons aussi pour favoriser les exportations jordanniennes en France" affirme Michel Duger. L'Attaché commercial, Pierre Boedoz travaille actuellement sur un projet d'exportation du sel de la mer morte.

Problème: à l'échelle internationale, la Jordanie représente moins de 4 millions d'habitants. Michel Duger évoque des perspectives d'un marché plus vaste, commun entre la Jordanie, la Palestine et Israël: "Les entreprises françaises vont prendre en considération le coût de la main d'œuvre et d'autres paramètres... Si elles se rendent compte qu'Amman est meilleure que Haïfa, alors elles viendront à Amman".

Michel Armand



La page européenne

Basel Jardaneh, ministre européen

Fervent supporter du "oui à Maastricht", le ministre des Finances jordanien lance un véritable plaidoyer en faveur d'une grande Europe



Basel Jardaneh, ministre des Finances

LE JORDAINE: De quelle aide financière européenne la Jordanie bénéficie-t-elle?

Basel Jardaneh: Je tiens à signaler avant toute chose que la CEE a beaucoup aidé la Jordanie après la crise du Golfe. Nous avons obtenu 150 millions d'Ecus en 1991. Cette année, un quatrième protocole a été signé entre mon pays et la CEE. En outre, il nous reste du protocole précédent un solde de 4 millions d'Ecus qui ont été utilisés essentiellement pour le développement et la création d'emplois. Nous avons également bénéficié d'un soutien spécial pour nos problèmes d'ajustement structurel. Il s'élève à 80 millions d'Ecus dont dix millions qui proviennent du nouveau protocole. Le reste sera versé en deux fois fin 1992 et fin 1993. La Banque Européenne d'investissement (BEI) nous a accordé des crédits que nous utilisons pour financer des projets visant à résoudre en particulier nos problèmes d'approvisionnement en eau et en électricité...

L.J: Quelle est la nature des échanges commerciaux entre la Jordanie et la CEE?

Basel Jardaneh: Nous exportons vers l'Europe essentiellement des phosphates, des potasses et quelques produits industriels, principalement des vêtements. Par exemple, l'Italie nous achète des engrais, l'Allemagne des vêtements, les Pays-Bas des engrais, des phosphates et des potasses. Nos exportations totales pour les pays de la CEE n'ont pas dépassé pour la première moitié de cette année 2 millions de dollars. Soit environ 7 à 8% de nos exportations totales. Quant à nos importations en provenance de la Communauté Européenne, elles sont de toutes sortes: alimentation, médicaments, produits chimiques...

L.J: La Jordanie bénéficie-t-elle de certaines facilités pour ses exportations?

Basel Jardaneh: Oui, les produits jordaniens sont exemptés de taxes à l'exportation. Mais malheureusement, cette mesure ne s'applique qu'aux produits manufacturés, c'est-à-dire essentiellement aux vêtements. Contrairement à Israël, nous ne bénéficions d'aucun traitement de faveur en ce qui concerne nos produits agricoles et nous le déplore.

L.J: Il existe dans les pays européens des normes assez strictes concernant la qualité, les salaires, l'hygiène etc. Comment la Jordanie réagit-elle aux exigences européennes qui ne pensez-vous pas qu'elles constituent en fait une sorte de protection contre les produits non-européens?

Basel Jardaneh: Il est vrai que les standards européens sont élevés. Toutes les sociétés jordaniennes ne sont pas en mesure d'exporter en Europe. Mais des sociétés sont familières avec ces

normes, elles font tout pour s'y conformer. Prenons l'exemple des vêtements. Nous les fabriquons selon les standards européens. Les Etats-Unis ont eux aussi des exigences et c'est tout à fait normal.

Je ne pense pas que la CEE veuille se protéger contre qui que ce soit. Au contraire, elle souhaite développer ses relations commerciales avec les autres pays. Mais en ce qui concerne l'agriculture, c'est une autre histoire. Il existe des normes très exigeantes, en particulier en ce qui concerne les pesticides. C'est peut-être pour cette raison que la Jordanie a des difficultés à exporter ses produits agricoles. Dans ce cas, on peut éventuellement parler de protection contre les produits non-européens.

L.J: Ces derniers temps, le dinar jordanien a perdu beaucoup de sa valeur par rapport aux monnaies européennes. Cela rend les produits jordaniens moins chers à l'exportation, mais, en contre-partie, les produits européens sont plus coûteux pour la Jordanie. Votre pays peut-il se payer le "lux" de ces importations?

Basel Jardaneh: Nous n'avons jamais importé autant de produits européens que maintenant. On assiste depuis quelques mois à un véritable boom de la consommation et des investissements. Pour l'instant, la hausse des monnaies européennes par rapport au dinar jordanien n'a eu aucun effet sur nos importations. Mais il y aura certainement des répercussions dans quelques mois.

L.J: En tant que ministre des Finances jordanien, que représente pour vous l'Europe selon le traité de Maastricht?

Basel Jardaneh: Une grande Europe, cela veut dire pour moi une Europe plus efficace, plus écoutée et plus présente sur la scène internationale. Vous savez, les pays méditerranéens sont très proches de l'Europe, sur tous les plans. Dans l'ensemble, une grande Europe sera un point positif pour ces pays. Ils pourront bénéficier de sa compétence, recevoir un soutien plus important. En outre, cela leur permettra d'avoir accès à l'ensemble du marché européen, et non plus à celui de quelques pays.

L.J: Si les Français se prononcent en faveur du traité de Maastricht, la grande Europe a de grandes chances d'être réalisée. Quelles seront alors les répercussions sur la Jordanie?

Basel Jardaneh: Les pays méditerranéens, dont la Jordanie fait à mon sens partie, vont tirer profit de cette grande Europe. Notre pays prendra nécessairement plus d'engagements dans les affaires internationales et témoignera plus d'intérêt pour ses voisins méditerranéens. L'unification des normes permettra à la Jordanie d'augmenter ses exportations et facilitera la tâche des producteurs. Mais, cela mis à part, je ne prévois pas de changements considérables pour mon pays. Il y a des choses qui m'inquiètent. Par exemple, la tendance actuelle en Europe est d'utiliser des engrais organiques au détriment des engrais chimiques que nous produ-

sons. Cela aura sans aucun doute des répercussions sur les exportations jordaniennes.

L.J: Et sur le plan politique?

Basel Jardaneh: Nous souhaitons vivement une grande Europe. Elle nous comprendra mieux que tout autre pays. La création d'une telle entité va dans l'intérêt des pays arabes et méditerranéens.

L.J: Et si le "non" l'emporte dimanche prochain? Quelles en seront les conséquences pour la Jordanie?

Basel Jardaneh: Pour être honnête, je ne pense pas qu'il y aura d'importantes répercussions sur mon pays. Mais cela aura des conséquences sur le marché international. La Jordanie est impliquée comme tous les pays dans le système économique mondial. Nos hommes d'affaires devront ouvrir l'œil. Mais bien sûr, ceci n'est valable que dans le cas où la grande Europe ne verrait pas le jour.

L.J: Êtes-vous un partisan du "oui à Maastricht"?

Basel Jardaneh: Oui, je suis très favorable à Maastricht. De par ma formation d'économiste, j'aime la coopération économique. Et je suis pour une grande Europe. Maastricht, pour les Européens, doit être synonyme de dynamisme, de compétition intelligente et d'ouverture. Un pays ne peut pas vivre s'il est replié sur lui-même, s'il refuse les défis. ■

Propos recueillis par Michèle Rieux

L'EDITO

L'image de la France

A QUELQUES jours du référendum sur la ratification du traité de Maastricht, rien, absolument rien n'est encore joué. Les derniers sondages laissent entrevoir un oui et un non au coude à coude. Mais une chose est sûre: dimanche soir, les projecteurs internationaux seront braqués sur la France. Ceux des Européens qui craignent que l'instigateur lui-même de ce rêve à douze ou maintenant onze étoiles, ne sabote le navire. Ceux des Américains ou des Japonais qui se délecteraient de voir la France renier Jean Monnet, père de l'Europe, et traîner l'embarcation en eaux troubles.

Depuis le rejet du traité par la brebis danoise, les voisins de la France sont aux aguets. Les Britanniques, peu enclins à accepter toute perte de souveraineté, stopperont ni le processus dans leur pays, ni les Français dans leur emportement pas dans leur soufflet européen. Les Allemands, quant à eux, multiplient les efforts pour convaincre "l'ami français". Le partenaire de quarante années d'efforts communs n'est-il pas prêt à renoncer aux prérogatives du mark et de la Bundesbank pour laisser la place à une zone Ecu. N'a-t-il pas décidé récemment une baisse de ses taux d'intérêt, signe tangible d'une ouverture vers la France et l'Europe.

Que va répondre la France? Quelle image va-t-elle donner d'elle-même? Le pays des Droits de l'homme peut-il laisser diriger son destin par une "coalition des non" ou ne peut plus héroïcité.

L'hexagone, osons l'espérer, ne se laissera pas gouverner par Philippe Séguin, ex-rénovateur du RPR qui, ayant raté sa reconquête du parti par ce biais, devient de facto représentant de l'arrière-pensée et du repli sur soi. Par une étrange ligne entre les résidus du Parti communiste français et un Front National toujours fringant. Leurs arguments cachent des aspirations électorales ou politiciennes. Il est très facile de les réfuter un à un.

L'Europe des Eurocrates fait peur... Maastricht renforce le rôle des Parlements élus, en particulier celui de Strasbourg. La PAC effraie les agriculteurs... Nous allons pas qu'en 1992, la France a reçu 20% du budget agricole européen, soit environ 40 milliards de francs.

La France doit réagir et combattre ses vieux démons afin de pousser dans le sens d'une Europe politique, culturelle et sociale. Sinon, elle risque de compromettre quarante longues années de tractations. De nuire à son propre rêve, à son image dans le monde et à l'Europe.

AROUND TOWN



Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

Iraqi Philharmonic unveils national compositions

By Marina Mango
Special to The Star

AS FAR as the story goes for Iraqi music, the blockade inflicted on their country has done them a good deed. Since the Gulf War, there has been an absence of foreign influences at the Baghdad Philharmonic.

Although the Iraqi national symphony orchestra has been successfully led by many European conductors in the past, today's situation has played a surprisingly positive role. It has promoted the musicians' self reliance, which in turn has brought about their confidence and pride.

This is the prevailing mood of the 28-member symphony orchestra, which performed in Amman last week under the auspices of Jordan's National Conservatory. Orchestra conductor, Mohammad Othman Sidiq, said, "In the 50 years of its existence, our symphony orchestra's repertoire was always, in one way or another, decided by foreigners. Perhaps only two or three Iraqi



composers had their compositions played in all these years. We virtually had no say in the matter!" Now the situation has changed. In just the past seven months, the orchestra successfully played the works of nine Iraqi composers.

Mr Sidiq, who has also appeared as a solo pianist with many orchestras in Europe, conducted his own composition at

the concert entitled 'Will Power'. It was a melodious blend of the European trend in musical clarity with an oriental touch of mystique. It consisted of three movements, depicting what Mr Sidiq described as "pre-war serenity" (Allegro), "post-war melancholy" (Andante) and a rhythmically structured Allegro full of joy and optimism.

The symphony orchestra also performed a number of variations by Munther Jamil Hafez, entitled 'Guy Mali Wall'. One of the finest viola players in the Arab World, Hafez resorted to an old Iraqi tune as the foundation on which he built four movements. The compositions were different in their style, but similar in content, preserving the basic structure of the original.

Fuad Al Mushita, orchestra director and first flutist, said that it was a satisfying challenge for his orchestra to perform in Amman before a "well-versed" Jordanian audience, and he praised the individual capabilities of the orchestra's members.

Warmest congratulations go to their many friends in Amman, to Neill and Giovanni Benenati on the birth of baby Luca on 4 September. Neill's parents, Della and Antonio Cabbot were on hand for the arrival of 3.2 kilo Luca, their first grandchild, at Amman's Irbid hospital. The Benenatis would like say a special thank you to the staff at the hospital for their kindness and attention.

Adnan Sallakh, general manager of ANZ Grindlays, hosted a special dinner with his wife Sulaiah last week to welcome new Australian Ambassador John Sheppard and his wife Anna to Amman. They were joined at the Jordan Intercontinental by British Ambassador Patrick Evers and his wife Heidi, along with Indian Ambassador to Jordan Mr Arun Kumar Budhraj and other members of the diplomatic corps. Also attending were a number of prominent Jordanian business and financial figures, including deputy governor of the central bank Dr Michel Marito and his wife Lucy. A major theme of the evening was the prospects of a growth in trading ties between Jordan and Australia, with much talk of a bright future for the exchange of phosphates and sheep.

The Marriott Hotel is organizing a charity train ride for Thursday 24 September. Dress casually, and dinner will be served along with live music and entertainment. Buses will be available for returning to Amman, courtesy of the Jet Bus Company. Departure will be from Al Mahatta railway

station at 5.00 pm, to the old castle in Daba'a. Reception will be at 4.00 pm. To avoid being missed out, make your reservations early.

The friends of archeology are organizing another trip to Petra and Jabal Haroun. The overnight camping trip will be led by Dr Robert Schick, one of the co-directors of the Petra Church project. The trip will include a visit to the on-going excavation of the Byzantine Church in the heart of Petra and to Jabal Haroun, the highest peak in the Petra area. The group will also visit the Muslim Shrine (considered to be the burial place of prophet Aaron, Moses' brother), and the remains of the Byzantine period site at the summit.

Bus departure will be from the Amra parking lot, Thursday the 17, at 5 pm. Bus fare is JD10 per person. Participants must bring their own food, beverages, sleeping bags (or tents) for spending the night in caves or under the stars of Petra.

The British Council will be showing two films in the coming weeks. The first, 'Postman Pat's 1-2-3 Story', is a film for youngsters that will be shown on Saturday 19 September. Wednesday 23rd will be the screening of 'Northanger Abbey', a film that captures the spirit and wit of Jane Austen's classic novel. The film will commence at 7.00 pm.

Under the patronage of Minister of Youth, Dr Saleh Ibrahim, the Alia Art Gallery is holding an

exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Iraqi artists Bahija Al Hakeem and Salim Al Ma-Shaykhee. The gallery will open today, Thursday, September 17 at 6.00 pm. The gallery is situated in Amman, First Circle, at the Insurance building.



Christine Chi-Peng Cheng, daughter of Peter Cheng, director of the Commercial Office of Taiwan, has been named on the 1991-92 dean's list at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. Originally a graduate of Amman's American Community School in 1991, her name now joins an impressive list of distinguished Smith women who have attained this honor. In order to be eligible for the dean's list, a student must have attained an average of 3.33 or better in a minimum of 24 credits for the full academic year. Founded in 1871, Smith College is a nationally ranked liberal arts college for women, with 2700 undergraduate students from every state in the USA and from 55 other countries.

Concorde returns to the land of Petra

By Mary Denis
Special to The Star

SUPERSONIC LUXURY is winging its way back to Jordan. After a year's interruption following the Gulf War, Concorde has now resumed its prestigious 'Flights of Fantasy', highlighting Jordan as one of the world's most remarkable locations.

And what a way to fly! Supersonic flying speeds of up to twice the speed of sound and unparalleled luxury are the high points of a flight aboard this exceptional plane.

It was Concorde specialists Goodwood Travel Ltd. who in 1983 introduced the unique experience of flying in style to some of the world's 'classic' destinations. The route to Jordan was first inaugurated in 1987 and synchronized with HM the King's birthday and Jordan's Independence Day. Since then, this powerful carrier with the capacity to transport 100 passengers has made six successful flights to the kingdom.

Director of Goodwood Travel, Mr Jan Knott, said that Jordan is marketed for British tourists as 'The land of Petra', on account of its undeniably distinctive main attraction. Packaged with an exciting itinerary and first class service aboard a craft that can fly at up to 1330 miles per hour, this 'Flight of Fantasy' certainly lives up to its name.

"These trips are not exactly holidays," said Mr Knott. "They are special experiences; Concorde itself is an experience."

Ever since its creation by British and French specialists in the late '50s, Concorde has been a controversial aircraft. Objectors argue that it is excessively noisy when taking off and landing, and while flying supersonic it produces a sound boom. Consequently the plane has been banned from flying full speed over land. En route to Jordan, Concorde takes a roundabout flight, flying subsonic over land and at supersonic

speed over the Adriatic Sea. Seif Taher, a chief pilot with Royal Jordanian, insists that the noise level of Concorde on landing and take-off is "no higher" than that of any other powerful aircraft. "It is only higher when it reaches supersonic speed, which is approximately 30 to 35 minutes after take-off," he said. "By that time the aircraft would have reached an altitude of 11-13 kilometers, so the noise factor is not really a problem."

Needless to say, speed is not the issue for visiting holiday makers who are seeking what one tourist described as the "magical experience" of a Concorde flight. In fact, the four hours' flying time from London to Amman often doesn't seem long enough!

Concorde's style and elegance in the air has been equally matched on the ground by the impeccable arrangements handled for the visitors by the Amman Marriott Hotel. Who else could organize such special treats as an exotic gastronomic feast in the middle of the desert, a grand piano accompaniment at the end of a train ride or a sunset barbecue on the shores of the Dead Sea? One delighted tourist enthused that "the Goodwood party could produce a miracle at least twice a day."

The current economic recession in Britain has made its mark on all walks of life, with the tourist industry being equally affected. The Concorde 'Flights of Fantasy', however, will not be compromising standards for a lost in custom.

"We do not wish to sacrifice quality for the sake of cost cutting," said Mr Knott, adding that the company has been able to reduce prices by offering a one way rather than return Concorde flight whilst preserving all the other essential elements of the tours. This has also forged a new cooperative venture between Royal Jordanian and British Airways, allowing Concorde to bring 200 visitors to Jordan in



USAir on the international market

Mr Hani Suleiman, Jordan's director for USAir, hosted a reception on Friday, 11 September, at the Marriott Hotel in Amman. This marks their first year of success. USAir has two international marketing objectives: to continue to add international service from its hub, and to develop strong partnerships with international carriers. Tony McKenna, USAir's senior vice president says, "USAir was late getting into the international market. We cannot build an international operation to match our US competitors in a short period of time. We can, however, build an equivalent with the continued growth of USAir's international service and forged alliances. USAir's greatest strength is its large domestic presence with a strong route system focused in the eastern United States, where most European travel originates. This is obviously attractive to European carriers as they try to determine how to develop the US market."

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on Jordan Television from 19 to 25 September

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers and New Practical Jokes
9:00 — Life on the Land
9:30 — Saturday Variety
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Feature Film: 'Beasts' Starring Tom Bakston, Kathy Christopher. Depicting the long neck of man and bears in the wilderness of the Rocky mountains.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Coach
9:10 — Documentary: Land of Birds. Thousands of birds come and leave annually to Queensland, Australia; where they come from or go to remains a mystery.
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Midnight Caller

MONDAY

8:30 — Close to Home
9:10 — Gone to the Dogs
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — A portrait of Tex Avery

TUESDAY

8:30 — Acropolis now
9:30 — Tex
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Feature Film: 'Men Are Not Gods', Starring Miriam Hopkins, Rex Harrison. A story of a times that dives deep into human relationships.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the Bell

Pop Singles



November Rats, Guns N' Roses
I've Used To Be My Play
Madonna, Warner Bros
Shakespeare's Sister, London
This Technoatic
Back, Sir Mix-A-Lot
Something He
En Vogue
House of
Many Boy

Top Video Rentals

1. The Hand that Rocks the Cradle, Anabella Scarra, Rebecca DeMornay, Warner Home Video.
2. Wayne's World, Mike Myers, Danna Cravey, Paramount Home Video.
3. The Prince of Tides, Barbra Streisand, Nick Nolte, Columbia TriStar Home Video.
4. Rush, Jason Patric, Jennifer Leigh, MGM/UA Home Video.
5. Hook, Dustin Hoffman, Robin Williams, Columbia TriStar Home Video.
6. Juice, Omar Epps, Jermale Hopkins, Paramount Home Video.
7. Grand Canyon, Kevin Kline, Danny Glover, Fox Video.
8. Cape Fear, Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, MCA/Universal Home Video.
9. Stopl or My Mom Will Shoot, Sylvester Stallone, Estelle Getty, MCA/Universal Home Video.
10. Bugat, Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Columbia TriStar Home Video.

FRENCH PROGRAM

FRIDAY

8:30 — Goldeo
9:10 — The Good Guys
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — EL CID
11:10 — The Powers That Be

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Petites Histoires Presque vraies
6:10 — Les Aventures du Bosco
6:30 — Operation Mozart
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Feoelre Sur. A local program.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant
5:55 — Des Chiffres et des Lettres

THURSDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest
9:00 — Gabriel's Fire
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Movie of TheWeek. 'Babies' The story of Three ladies who wanted to have babies.

LUNDI

6:15 — La Chance aux Chansons
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — E-M6. A scientific magazine

MARDI

6:00 — Les Aventures de Joe
6:10 — Histoires Naturelles
6:30 — Marc et Sophie
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Les Beaux Moments du Cirque.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le Moode est à Vous
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Intertropique: A Cultural program about Africa.

JEUDI

6:00 — Envoyé Spécial
6:30 — Operation Mozart
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

VENREDI

5:30 — La Maison Bleue
5:50 — Les Cles de Fort Boyard. A game show.
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Carre Vert. A documentary program.

The Star
648-298

HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ARIES (21 March-19 April): Tuesday and Wednesday should be good for athletic contests. Stay home Thursday and Friday.

TAURUS (20 April-20 May): Go shopping Monday. Over the weekend, don't do anything more strenuous than reading.

GEMINI (21 May-21 June): If you get tense Monday, find a quiet place to sit. Thursday, you become involved with a new interest.

CANCER (22 June-22 July): Do bookkeeping, cleaning and shopping the first of the week. Over the weekend you'll probably get more guests.

LEO (23 July-22 July): Plan a major event for Tuesday. You might have to make a decision in a relationship.

VIRGO (23 August-22 September): Monday, make decisions involving time or money. A flirt may toy with your affections this weekend.

LIBRA (23 September-23 October): Use Monday to figure out what you want to have happen next. Plan a romantic get-together this weekend.

SCORPIO (24 October-21 November): Monday's good for anything having to do with money. You may be pressured to buy something you don't really want.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November- 21 December): Somebody may have been pressuring you to be more tidy. That will start easing on Tuesday. This weekend is perfect for a long drive.

CAPRICORN (22 December- 19 January): Wrep up any unfinished business on Monday. Thursday and Friday, re-establish your authority.

AQUARIUS (20 January-February 18): Don't even try to get anything inventive done Monday. Tuesday, start building something you've been thinking about.

PISCES (19 February- 20 March): Monday evening is good for a home cooked meal. A bossy person may be unbearable midweek.

Dining Out

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room.
DAROTEL
ماراوتييل
Amman-Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403-Pax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTEL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jebel Amman, near Ahliyah Girls School
Take-away service
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 628888

The Tower
Restaurant
40 Years of Experience
• Livens Item D'oeuvre
• Oriental Cuisine
• European Specialities
• Steak House
• Pumper Steaks
• Fish Mignon
• Roasts
• Special Corporate Air Zulu
Tower Bldg., 23rd Floor
For Reservation Tel: 634034/6

Rondeau Bourgignonne
The first haute cuisine menu designed for those who love fine food. It mirrors our special styles and taste levels.
Warm, Hospitable.
Shepherd Hotel
for your reservations call 639197

For A Superb Meal Think of (Amigo Nabeel)
Oriental Appetizers & European Food. Located in a quiet central area
1st circle, Jebel Amman
Tel: 638031 & 622617

Dos Palmiers
Mexican Cuisine
Tel. 654 205
Jebel Amman - First Circle

Would You Believe.....

Drinking 100 cups of coffee within about four hours can kill you. That's a lethal dose of caffeine.

Here's one reason why you may have trouble catching your pet cat. The estimated top speed of a human being is 28 mph. For a cat, it's 30 mph.

The source of the Arkansas River is way up in the Colorado mountains.

The United States and Canada share a border that is almost 4,000 miles long.

Although he was the sixth actor to play Torzan in the movies, Johnny Weissmuller was the first to portray him in a talking picture show.

Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

Jordan Bridge

WHO CAN work these adds? Usually I am faced with some of the very intelligent questions regarding some hands, and usually I am very cautious, in answering:

97543
AKQ8
J
1582

N
W
E
S

AK
KJ95
AKQ86
KJ

West looked at her hand and started counting the points, she rarely held this sort of beast. Playing precision, she opened 1♠ and got an expected 1♠ negative response. "What should I bid at that stage?" Violet Habibi asked.

There are so many visions of the precision, I prefer the one where one of a major is forcing after a negative response, accordingly the bidding goes:

West East

1♠ 1♠
1♥(1) 1♥(2)
3♦(3) 4♥(4)
4♦(5) 4N(6)
5♦(5) 5♦(5)
6♥ End

(1) Four or more cards.
(2) Denies four heart cards.
(3) 22 or more points, diamond longer than club.
(4) Strong three cards more than a preference.
(5) Cue bidding.
(6) Two or none of the above, any bid of the agreed upon suit.

But if you don't play this version, then you have to jump to 3♠ over your partner's negative response to create the necessary force and probably you would end in 3N.

What if you play the good old honest system?

West East
2♠ 2♥
3♦ 3♠
4♥ 5N(3)
6♥ End

(1) 23 or more points and Ace asking.
(2) The heart Ace.
(3) Josephine: bid six with one of the three top honors.

How good is the slam? Violet asked.
If the heart is not worse than 4-2 (90%) you need to have one of the club honors well placed and make the right guess (50%).

And if both spades and hearts are divided 3-3 (12%) you also make your contract by establishing spades.

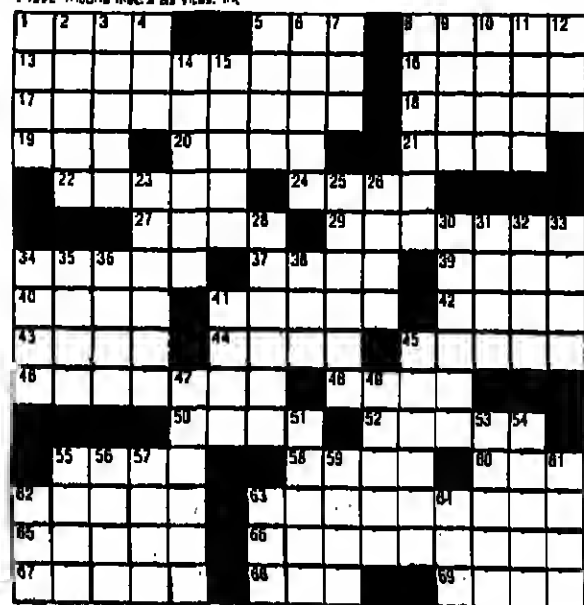
So the slam is almost 50%.
If I am vulnerable and play in hearts, I would have bid it.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

ACROSS
1 Letter on a key
5 Nonflying bird
8 Poisonous snake
13 Annoying alphas
16 Girlfriend in France
17 Mexican general
18 Uncle Millie
19 Col. sub.
20 Thin nail
21 Whittier or Griffin
22 Cien
24 Oreoalid bird
27 Cranion end
29 Empowered
30 Avatica
37 "The Great Commoner"

43 Curved molding
44 Scatla
45 Impact
46 In a frenzy
50 Greatest Miss Henle
52 Branch
58 Downpour
60 Eakimo knife
62 Roll with a hole
63 Wiry-coated
64 Exploite
66 Body bulge
67 Antrioxin
68 Apeace
69 Makes lace
61 Center of operations
62 Make into
63 "The Great Commoner"

DOWN
1 Center of operations
2 Make into
3 Mute voice
4 Behave
5 Sicilian mount
6 Rapais
7 Country
8 Bathhouse
9 Prophetic sign
10 -- of pair
11 Depend
12 Enzyme
14 Applad
15 Rowed
23 Dunne and Ryan
25 More moist
26 Killy
28 Killy
29 Sweetener
30 Glowing bita
31 Intelle
32 Place
33 Blatant
34 Silly
35 Rounded
36 Great
37 Intensity
38 Wefar
39 Pitcher



THE FAR SIDE

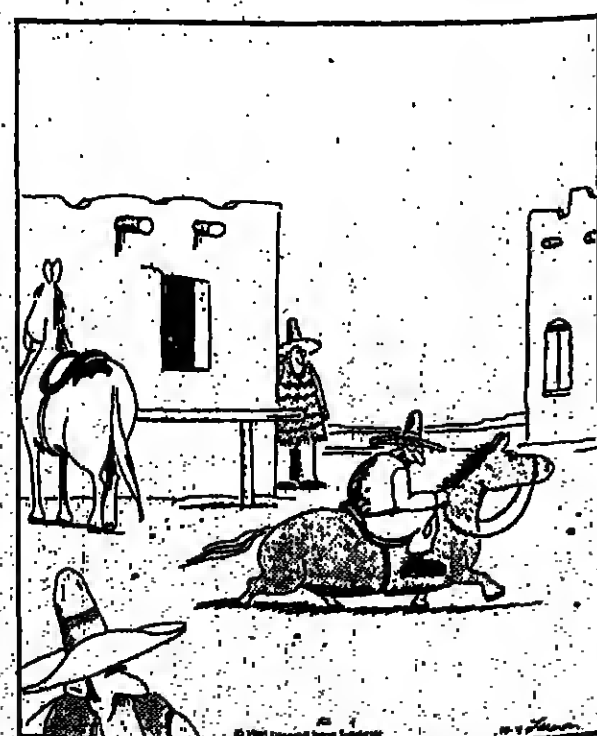
By GARY LARSON



Milli Vanilli's bird, Lilly



In what was destined to be a short-lived spacejaca, a chicken, suspended by a balloon, floated through the Samurai bar's doorway.



Durango, Mexico, circa 1880: Juan Sanchez cruises through town on the first low-rider.

Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Australian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	644635
Bahrain	664148
Belgian	675683
Canadian	661124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	677559
Czechoslovakian	665105
French Consulate Gen.	623234
French Consulate	623443
German	641273/4
Greek	689351
Hungarian	672331
Indian	816614
Irish	637262
Italian	639331
Japanese	638185
Kenyan	630878
Lebanese	672486/7
Libyan	665107
Malawi	675135/8
Malaysian	666118
Maroccan	641381
Mexican	641451
Netherlands	637967/625165
Norwegian	628911
North Korean	666349
Philippines	639331
Pakistan	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Polish	637153
Romanian	644331/2
Saudi Arabian	667738
South Korean	641454
Spanish	660745/6
Sudanese	622140
Swedish	642512
Swiss	669177/9
Taiwan	686416/7
Tanzanian	641076
Turkish	674307/8
United Arab Emirates	641251
United Kingdom	644369
United States of America	644371
USSR	641158
Yemen	642381
Delegation of the EEC	668191
UNEP	668171/7
UNRWA	669194/8
UNESCO	671530
UNICEF	629571
Cons. of Sri Lanka	645312
Cons. of Ireland	698851

Airlines

Algeria (Air yemen)	653691
Aeroflot	641510
Air France	666035 / 667824
Air India	688301/2
Air Lanka	682140/1
Alitalia	625203
American Airlines	669068
ANA Wings	694484
Avianca Airlines	637380/667028
British Airways	665909
Canada Airlines	641430
Cathay Pacific	637330
Cyprus Airways	624363
Delta Air	667028
Emirates Airlines	630011
Garuda Air	662141/678321
Hawaiian Airlines	635606/656616
Herz Air	639293
Iran Air	657827/644036
Iran Air Lines	628596/628598
Japan Airlines	630879
KLM	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/622336
Libyan Arab Airlines	690144
Malaysian Airlines	643831/2
Malaysian Airlines	601744
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